



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

June 30, 2008

Hello Friends,

Tomorrow, July 1, two new laws go into effect that impacts drivers throughout California. One law will make it illegal to use a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device for the phone.

The other law completely bans those between the age of 16 to 19 years from using any handheld device (e.g. cell phones) while driving. The law allows a driver to use a wireless telephone to make emergency calls to a law enforcement agency, a medical provider, the fire department, or other emergency services agency.

The base fine for the first offense is \$20 and \$50 for subsequent offenses. According to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule, with the addition of penalty assessments, a first offense is \$76 and a second offense is \$190. The violation is a reportable offense and will appear on the driver's record. However, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will not assign violation points for cell phone offenses.

Passengers are not affected by these laws. The laws only apply to the person driving a motor vehicle. Operators of an authorized emergency vehicle during the course of employment are exempt as are those motorists operating a vehicle on private property.

I encourage everyone in the 30th Assembly District to drive safely and pay careful attention to the new laws, just as you are careful to your fellow drivers. For more information, visit:

www.chp.ca.gov/pdf/media/cell_phone_faq.pdf

Look for the next edition of the Parra Notes on July 31.

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What's Happening in Sacramento

The California Legislature will be on Recess from July 4 through August 4. My District and Capitol offices will be open during that time. However, the Legislature will not be in Session nor voting on any legislative measures during that time. Further, all policy committees are finished for the Session, meaning only fiscal committees may meet.

My Legislative Highlights

I am pleased to announce the passage of four of my bills out of key policy committees in the State Senate. The bills now head to the Senate Appropriations Committee. **AB 2342 would place the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley in statute.** It is supported by a number of community leaders and organizations, including the Friant Water Authority, Kern County, Tulare County Economic Development Corporation, Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Kings Community Action Organization, City of Bakersfield, City of Fresno, City of Hanford, and many others. **AB 2219 encourages the incorporation of greater water conservation measures into developments to help California meet its needs associated with anticipated population growth.** Supporters of AB 2219 include the California Building Industry Association (sponsor), Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, Kern Home Builders Association, and a number of water districts and developers.

AB 994 would reauthorize the Associate Degree Nursing (A.D.N.) Scholarship Pilot Program until 2014. Existing law targets potential nurses who are seeking an Associate Degree in Nursing at a community college in counties throughout the state with Registered Nurses (RN) ratios of 500 RNs or less per 100,000 individuals and provides them with the financial aid and resources necessary to successfully complete their education. Among many others, AB 994 is supported by the California State University, Fresno – Department of Nursing, Hanford Community Medical Center, Kern Community College District, and Bakersfield College. **And AB 2572 focuses on menu labeling** and would require every covered food facility, with at least 20 other food facilities in the state with the same trade name, to disclose certain nutritional information for each standard food item, including: calories, amount of fat, saturated fat, and trans fat, amount of carbohydrates, and total amount of sodium. It is supported by hundreds of restaurants throughout the Central Valley and California.

My Assembly Concurrent Resolution, ACR 114, passed out of the Senate Education Committee with bipartisan support and now heads to Senate Appropriations. It requests the Superintendent of Public Instruction to **convene a committee to investigate cost savings for school districts operating home-to-school transportation programs.** The Home-to-School transportation program provides funding for transportation costs for approximately 963,000 students, statewide. Rural counties and school districts that bus large numbers of students long distances are most impacted by the under-funding of school transportation program costs.

Constituents Visit Sacramento

I would like to thank Pete Weber from the Regional Jobs Initiative and Fritz Grupe, co-chair of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, for their leadership and testimony at the Senate Local Government Committee hearing in support of AB 2342. They did a wonderful job in expounding upon the benefits of the Partnership for all eight counties directly affected and were pointedly able to answer all of the questions posed by the Senators on the committee.

I am pleased to announce that Pioneer Union Elementary School in Hanford has received a grant from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The funding is provided through the California Department of Public Health. The Fund provides financial assistance to public water systems attempting to address serious public health problems.

<http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/services/funding/Pages/SRF.aspx>

In the District

I proudly represented the Central Valley at the Democratic Leadership Council's (DLC) 12th Annual National Conversation. The event is a one-of-a-kind forum for elected officials, business and community leaders to come together from around the country to compare notes and develop innovative strategies for governing in their states and communities. The DLC is an idea center, catalyst, and national voice for a reform movement that is reshaping American politics by moving it beyond the old left-right debate. www.dlc.org

Congratulations to the California State University, Fresno Bulldogs for winning the College World Series. The men's baseball team capped an incredible season with a remarkable run through the NCAA tournament, culminating in the final win over the University of Georgia. Fresno State demonstrated incredible determination as they consistently won on the road in tough venues. The championship marks Fresno State's first College World Series banner in school history. Way to go Bulldogs! <http://gobulldogs.cstv.com>

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Internships

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at:

Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at:

Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Derek Chernow** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at:
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